ACCOMPONISHMENTS OF THE 62ND LEGISLATURE

You asked me to talk about the accomplishments of the 62nd legislature, so I'll try to do just that. Everything else that happened during the five months we were in session in Austin has received too much attention and discussion. Many times, it seemed to me, the differences between the two factions in the House of Representatives could have been ironed out had some of the members—and the press—been less verbal and more inclined toward a meeting of minds in compromise.

Finally, against all obstacles and after a full 140-day regular session and a 4-day called session, we did bring out and get enacted—with possibly two exceptions—all of the "must" legislation with which we began the year. These failures—as you have no doubt guessed—pertained to public welfare and a revision of the penal code. Both will be discussed in more detail a little later.

Preliminary figures based on counts made on June 4—the day the called session ended—showed that the greatest
VOLUME OF LEGISLATION EVER HANDLED BY ANY TEXAS LEGISLATURE WAS ON THE AGENDA OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE 62ND LEGISLATURE, MORE THAN 3,000 HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS--THAT IS, RESOLUTIONS PROPOSING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS WHICH ARE CLASSED AS MAJOR LEGISLATION--WERE INTRODUCED. OF THAT NUMBER MORE THAN 1,000 MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE AND TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK FOR SIGNATURE. THE BATTING AVERAGE, THEN, WAS CLOSE TO .333, AND A LOT OF PLAYERS HAVE MADE THE BIG LEAGUES ON LESS THAN THAT! BY COMPARISON, THE 61ST LEGISLATURE HAD AN EASY TIME--2,341 BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND 944 ENACTED.

Reapportionment--representative, senatorial, and congressional--stood high in the order of business when the 62nd session was convened on January 19, 1971, but it wasn't until the waning hours of the regular session that HB 893, reapportioning the state's 150 legislative house seats, was enacted. It would be virtually impossible at any time for any legislature to reapportion these districts--or the senatorial, congressional, or judicial districts for that matter--to suit every incumbent and, at the same time, to give new population concentrations their "druthers" on district lines. With 150 incumbents asserting their rights and desires plus Texas' now
Huge population areas clamoring for reapportionment on the "one man, one vote" rule, you can see what we were up against.

During and just after World War II Texas began what has been a continuing swing from a rural to an urban state, so that the conflict between metropolitan and rural representation has become intensified with each decennial census. "There ain't no way", as the saying goes, to maintain the status quo... so incumbents were pitted against one another in a number of districts... and the final result managed to alienate nearly as many members as it pleased. Nevertheless, HB 893 was finally passed... multimember districts were retained... and the United States Supreme Court on Monday, June 7, 1971, issued a long-awaited ruling that "multi-member legislative districts do not necessarily dilute the voting strength of minority groups." At this point, then, the State of Texas... is in better shape than many thought on legislative redistricting, despite the hue and cry of "gerrymandering." However, at least one lawsuit is in the offing--this by a Republican House member (Tom Craddick of Midland) to challenge the constitutionality of HB 893.

Congressional reapportionment wasn't accomplished until the four-day called session, when SB 1 was adopted. The plan carved out two new congressional districts in heavily
POPULATED DALLAS-FORT WORTH AND THE HOUSTON AREA. CHANGES WERE MADE IN CONGRESSMAN DOWDY’S DISTRICT 2, WITH THE CONGRESSMAN’S HOME COUNTY OF HENDERSON BEING TRANSFERRED TO CONGRESSMAN PATMAN’S DISTRICT 1, AND THE REMAINDER OF THE DISTRICT 2 COUNTIES TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL EAST TEXAS COUNTIES FORMING A NEW DISTRICT 2, MOST OF THE HOUSTON SUBURB OF PASADENA WAS REMOVED FROM A HOUSTON CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND PLACED IN CONGRESSMAN JACK BROOKS’ DISTRICT 9, CAUSE OF MAJOR DISSENSION WAS THE PITTING OF REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN BOB PRICE OF PAMPA (PRESENT DISTRICT 18) AGAINST DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN GRAHAM PURCELL OF WICHITA FALLS (PRESENT DISTRICT 13) IN A NEW PANHANDLE DISTRICT 13. NOTICE OF A POSSIBLE SUIT CONTESTING THE ENTIRE CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT MEASURE HAS ALREADY BEEN ISSUED IN A PRESS RELEASE FROM PASADENA, TEXAS.


ANOTHER ISSUE CARRIED OVER FOR ACTION BY THE SPECIAL SESSION WAS A BILL PROVIDING FOR LIQUOR TAXES. TEXAS VOTERS

AND SINCE WE'VE ALREADY TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT TAXES, LET'S GO ALL THE WAY AND SEE WHAT THE NEW TAX BILL DOES TO EACH OF US. ESTIMATED TO RAISE $650 MILLION, THE TAX PACKAGE IS ALMOST TWICE AS LARGE AS PREVIOUS RECORDHOLDERS IN THIS RESPECT. THE STATE SALES TAX WILL GO TO 4 CENTS ON THE DOLLAR ON JULY 1--A 23 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE RATE--MEANING A 5 PERCENT LEVY IN CITIES WITH THE LOCAL SALES TAX. A PENNY IS ADDED ON EACH 10-CENT PURCHASE AND AN ADDITIONAL PENNY IS TACKED ON AT EACH 20-CENT INTERVAL THEREAFTER. THIS WILL BE EASIER FOR THE MERCHANT TO FIGURE THAN THE CURRENT ODD-CENT BREAKING POINTS WHICH HAVE MADE IT NECESSARY FOR THEM TO REFER TO CHARTS.

NEXT TO FEEL THE TAX PINCH ARE THE CIGARETTE SMOKERS, WHO MUST NOW PAY 18-1/2 CENTS PER PACK INSTEAD OF 15-1/2 CÉNTS AS
PROVIDED UNDER THE OLD LAW. SINCE THIS IS WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED A TAX ON PLEASURE, THE LEGISLATURE, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, PROVIDED THAT 1 CENT OF THE TAX ON EACH PACK SHOULD GO FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW STATE PARKS. MAYBE THAT WILL EASE THE PAIN TO SOME EXTENT!

Auto buyers' sales taxes will increase to 4 percent from the current 3 percent—a 33 percent jump in the tax rate—and the corporate franchise tax rate will increase 38 percent.

Another revenue-raising measure provides for an increase in out-of-state college tuition and a very small hike in resident tuition, to be effective with the new school term this fall.

Since you now know where the money is coming from, let's look at the way the state's $7.1 billion spending bill (SB 11) apportions these dollars among the many services and programs. The spending level during the current biennium was $6.4 billion.

Higher education—and maybe the "hippie revolution" had something to do with it—failed to receive a pay raise for college faculties for the first time in 10 years. There wasn't much enthusiasm for public education spending either. The 10-year
PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCING PLAN PASSED IN 1969 PROVED SO COSTLY THAT LEGISLATORS APPARENTLY FELT THEY WERE DOING GOOD TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO. HOWEVER, THE TEACHER RETIREMENT PROGRAM AND BENEFITS WERE IMPROVED.

SPENDING FOR PUBLIC WELFARE WAS ALLOCATED FOR ONLY ONE YEAR OF THE BIENNIIUM—WHICH IS THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS I MENTIONED EARLIER. UNLESS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO TAKE OVER WELFARE COSTS OR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE AID TO STATES THIS YEAR, A SPECIAL SESSION NEXT YEAR WILL BE NEEDED TO RAISE $300 MILLION TO FUND THE PROGRAM. EARLY IN THE REGULAR SESSION, SB 10 WAS ENACTED TRANSFERRING $8.2 MILLION FROM A CONTINGENCY FUND TO THE AID-TO-FAMILIES-WITH-DEPENDENT-CHILDREN PROGRAM IN ORDER TO AVERT WELFARE CUTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FISCAL YEAR. A FULL $11 MILLION IS ALLOTTED FROM THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (SB 11) FOR “VENDOR” MEDICAL PAYMENTS, WHICH ALLOWS DIRECT WELFARE PAYMENTS TO PHARMACISTS FOR MEDICINE USED BY THE NEEDY. THIS PLAN SHOULD ATTRACT AN ADDITIONAL $22 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID FOR THE $11 MILLION STATE EXPENDITURE. THIS WOULD, IN EFFECT, RELIEVE THE $80 MILLION CONSTITUTIONAL CEILING ON ANNUAL WELFARE SPENDING OF $11 MILLION. YOU REMEMBER THAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WHICH WAS DEFEATED AT THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON MAY 18- TO REMOVE THE PRESENT $80 MILLION CEILING ON ALL WELFARE SPENDING AND PUT A $55 MILLION CEILING ON PAYMENTS IN AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

-7-
Another bill enacted was also designed to attract federal funds and, at the same time, save money in the welfare program. SB 245 requires cities, counties and hospital districts to set up a uniform system of accounting for welfare expenditures and medically needy. Sponsors predict it will attract up to $100 million in federal welfare aid.

The proposed constitutional amendment to establish a state ethics commission to provide a code of ethics for state and legislative officers and employees, as well as recommend compensation for members of the legislature and the lieutenant governor was defeated at the May 18 election. It looked for a time as though the 62nd legislature would adjourn without providing the long-awaited code of ethics. However, in the regular session’s final hours, HB 203 was enacted to set standards of conduct for members of the legislature, legislative employees, statewide elected officials, except the judicial branch, and all elected officials of state or any political subdivision, as well as appointed state officials and employees of state agencies and regulatory agencies. The act requires that complete financial statements be filed by the officials listed as well as any employee whose salary is in excess of $11,000.
A number of public health and mental health bills made an appearance during the regular session. SB 27 was enacted to require immunization against five diseases for public school admittance, with exceptions provided for health and religious reasons. The governor's commission on physical fitness was created by SB 574, and SB 362 requires labeling of hazardous materials and bans sale of highly flammable children's clothing.

The Texas unemployment compensation act was completely overhauled to comply with new federal requirements. Benefited are the unemployed, whose maximum weekly jobless payments are increased from $45 to $63 per week.

The much-discussed penal code reform was the second failure in "must" legislation for the session. The state bar-recommended revision as presented in HB 419, proved to be controversial enough that sponsors said they would delay action another two years.

Insurance in one form or another touches us all. If you feel as I do—that it is constantly going up, no matter what is being insured—you should be interested in SB 989. The act permits automobile liability insurance companies to offer lower premiums to the driver willing to pay the first $250 out of his own pocket on any claim against him ($250 deductible).
THOSE SUBJECT TO THE VICISSITUDES OF HURRICANES SHOULD BE PLEASED WITH THE ENACTMENT OF SB 31. THIS ACT INSTITUTES AN ASSIGNED RISK POOL PLAN FOR FIRE AND CASUALTY AND MAKES AVAILABLE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR HURRICANE AND HAILSTORM IN HIGH-HAZARD AREAS SUCH AS THE GULF COAST.

PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE PATCHWORK THAT IS OUR TEXAS CONSTITUTION TOTALLED 154 JOINT RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND 18 FINALLY ENACTED. OF THESE, FOUR WERE SUBMITTED TO THE TEXAS ELECTORATE ON MAY 18, 1971--(1) SETTING UP THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION, (2) PERMITTING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE PROPOSED IN SPECIAL AS WELL AS CALLED SESSIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE, (3) RELATING TO THE CEILING ON PUBLIC WELFARE PAYMENTS, AND (4) PROVIDING FOR $100 MILLION STATE REVENUE BONDS FOR ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES, ONLY THE LATTER WAS ADOPTED BY THE VOTERS. AT THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, 1972, ANOTHER 14 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED. AMONG THEM ARE PROPOSALS TO ALLOW THE 63RD LEGISLATURE TO SIT AS A CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMISSION IN 1974; TO PROVIDE AN INCREASE IN THE PAY OF LEGISLATORS TO $8,400 A YEAR AND OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND HOUSE SPEAKER TO $22,500; TO PROVIDE FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR ALL STATEWIDE ELECTED OFFICIALS; TO GUARANTEE EQUAL LEGAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN UNDER THE CONSTITUTION; AND TO AUTHORIZE SPECIAL TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS. I WON'T GO INTO DETAIL ON THESE OR THE REMAINING PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME.
SINCE THE GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS A LONG WAY OFF AND THE ANALYSIS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PREPARED BY THE TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEFORE EACH ELECTION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WHO WANTS A COPY.

ANOTHER SUBJECT WHICH IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ALIKE IS NARCOTICS. THE 62ND LEGISLATURE ENACTED WHAT I THINK ARE SOME REALLY PROGRESSIVE MEASURES IN THIS AREA. SB 387 PROVIDES FOR RESEARCH ON THE EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA, AND HB 187 PROVIDES THAT MINORS MAY CONSULT AND BE TREATED BY A PHYSICIAN FOR NARCOTICS PROBLEMS, REGARDLESS OF AGE OR PARENTAL CONSENT. THIS ACT SHOULD RESULT IN EARLIER TREATMENT FOR MANY YOUNGSTERS, WHO ARE TOO ASHAMED TO TELL THEIR PARENTS OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH NARCOTICS.

THE DANGEROUS DRUG LAW (HB 1649) WAS COMPLETELY REVISED, WITH SOME PENALTIES INCREASED AND OTHERS LOWERED TO GIVE FIRST OFFENDERS MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR REHABILITATION. THE PENALTY FOR LSD USE AND SALE WAS INCREASED TO FELONY STATUS—FROM 2 TO 10 YEARS. HERETOFORE, IT HAD BEEN CONSIDERED A MISDEMEANOR.

THAT ABOUT TOUCHES THE MOST IMPORTANT LEGISLATION OF THE SESSION. OH YES, I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT THE 18-YEAR-OLD VOTE FOR ALL ELECTIONS—NOT JUST NATIONAL ELECTIONS—HAS BECOME
A REALITY WITH THE ADOPTION OF SCR 65, WHICH GIVES STATE RATIFICATION TO THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT EXTENDING FULL VOTING RIGHTS TO 18-YEAR-OLDS. HOWEVER, THOSE UNDER 21 MUST VOTE IN THEIR PARENTS' HOMETOWN, AND AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF RESISTANCE IN SOME QUARTERS, A PERMANENT VOTER REGISTRATION LAW WAS ENACTED TO COMPLY WITH RULINGS OF THE FEDERAL COURTS. VOTERS WILL BE ABLE TO REREGISTER BY VOTING AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS UNDER THE BILL, WHICH WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AFFIRMS A LOWER COURT RULING VOIDING THE PRESENT ANNUAL REGISTRATION LAW.

So you see that despite some reports to the contrary, your 62nd legislature has a working legislature, and there were accomplishments. Thank you for letting me talk about just a few that I consider among the most important.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 62ND LEGISLATURE

First . . let me say that it is a pleasure to be with you to discuss some of the accomplishments of the 62nd Texas Legislature.

I know that there are cynics who will tell you that we spent 144 days in Austin and did not accomplish a thing.

That is far from true. Yes . . I know that our regular and one called session in Austin were not ideal, but . . then . . what is ideal!

The 62nd Texas Legislature was the first to tackle the challenges of the '70's. And the challenges were many.

I feel that after the long hours of study and debate we came up with a number of meaningful programs of new legislation for our growing state.
I would like to briefly discuss some of those programs with you . . . and to leave you with a challenge. That challenge is to evaluate this work yourself, . . . and then decide for yourself whether the efforts of your legislature were fruitful or in vain.

When the broad scope of our work is evaluated in an unbiased light . . . I believe you will agree with me that the 62nd legislature was a productive one.

I would like to digress a moment from the actual accomplishments to give you an idea of the magnitude of work that was faced by your representatives and senators.

More than 3,000 bills and proposed constitutional amendments were introduced in the sessions just completed.

The house alone saw the introduction of more than 1,800 bills. More than 1,000 measures were introduced in the senate.

When the session was finally gaveled to a close . . . the house had passed more than 600 measures and the senate had approved more than 300.
And before final enactment... each of those measures—along with many others that did not pass—received thorough committee study on both sides of the capitol and was subjected to analytical scrutiny and testing debate.

The challenge was great and the task a major one. The problems we faced were as much yours as ours, for unless the problems are met and the challenges answered... Texas cannot continue to progress at the same rate that has already made our fine state one of the leaders of the nation.

Of course the media—newspapers, radio, television—kept you informed about our work on the major bills of the session. Bills like state appropriations... new taxation... reapportionment... liquor by the drink... capture broad interest.

But before I discuss such pieces of major legislation, I would like to also remind you of the so-called "little" bills—the bills designed for one specific area or one specific need.

These bills are scheduled on what is known as a local calendar, most of them usually sail through easily to final passage. They are the backbone of much of the government of our state.
Local bills bring salary increases to worthy county and district employees. They create water and conservation districts. They bring reforms to local game and fish regulations. In countless other ways they touch our lives and improve our society.

They are many and local in nature so you hear little about them from the media which are heavily burdened with coverage of the major legislation. But the time spent on these measures is spent wisely. For change--no matter how small--if it is for the good, then it is for the progress of our state.

In the field of major legislation, I am particularly proud of one accomplishment of the 62nd Legislature.

For the first time in my memory, your lawmakers knuckled down and passed a state appropriations bill, and the necessary taxation to back it up, without having to resort to the heated special session tactics of the past.

Both of those bills were record-breaking in size. They won't please everyone, but the consensus of the majority of your representatives and senators was that they were bills we can all live with, and they will get the job done, even if, in some cases, it is done painfully.
The new state budget bill calls for spending more than 7-billion-dollars during the next two fiscal years.

That is a staggering sum . . . and I know that many of you are asking yourselves: "Where is all this spending going to stop?"

I wish I had the answer to that question . . . but I must candidly admit that I do not.

As long as our state continues to grow . . . as long as the people demand more and expanded services . . . and as long as the dollar continues to deflate . . . we are going to have to spend more money.

The final answer lies with the times . . . and legislatures of the future.

Even the huge 7-billion-dollar bill we just passed will not cover our immediate needs unless the federal government decides to take over the welfare problems faced by all 50 states. Right now . . . signs are not good that this will happen.

So . . . we may have to return in special session before the regular session of 1973 to enact a supplementary budget to cover the second year of welfare spending for this current-biennium.
The budget bill we just passed contained only a one-year appropriation for welfare.

Governor Preston Smith has indicated he will call a special session... probably before next spring's primary elections... to appropriate funds for the second year of welfare if the federal government declines to take over that chore.

Early estimates indicate that we will have to find an additional 3-hundred-million-dollars in new taxes to cover the welfare costs for one year.

Welfare and public education accounted for most of the new spending that required a record 7-hundred-million-dollar tax bill this year. That money is needed just to keep our state in the black for the next two years.

Also included in that record-breaking appropriations bill were new funds for public and mental health... vocational training... and modest salary increases for the state's 60-thousand employees.

Yes... it is certainly a big budget... but we are a big and expanding state... and like everything else, it costs money to keep it operating efficiently.
WHERE IS THAT 7-HUNDRED-MILLION-DOLLARS IN NEW TAXATION COMING FROM?

THE ANSWER TO THAT IS SIMPLE, BUT PAINFUL. IT IS GOING TO COME MOSTLY FROM YOU AND ME . . . THE CONSUMERS OF THIS STATE.

THE NEW TAX BILLS MEAN WE WILL ALL BE PAYING MORE FOR BEER, WHISKEY, CARS, CIGARETTS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER ITEMS.

TO MEET THE BUDGET DEMANDS OF THE STATE . . . THE 62ND LEGISLATURE VOTED TO INCREASE THE STATE SALES TAX TO 4 PER CENT, THE LEVY ON A PACKAGE OF CIGARETTS WAS INCREASED 3 CENTS . . . AND THE EXCISE TAX ON AUTOMOBILES WAS RAISED FROM 3 TO 4 PER CENT TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE SALES TAX. THE TAX ON A KEG OF BEER WAS RAISED TO $5. PASSAGE OF THE LIQUOR-BY-THE-DRINK BILL BROUGHT ON THE PASSAGE OF A NUMBER OF NEW LIQUOR TAXES DESIGNED TO RAISE MORE THAN $30 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LEDGER . . . BUSINESS WAS socked WITH A CORPORATION FRANCHISE TAX INCREASE OF $1.25 PER $1,000 OF ASSETS.

IT IS NOT EASY TO LEGISLATE NEW TAXATION. SOMEBODY ALWAYS MUST PAY, AND WITH THE MONEY SITUATION THE WAY IT IS . . . EVERY LITTLE BIT IS BOUND TO HURT SOME.
But we cannot spend money if we don't raise it in some form of taxation.

Let me give you a brief idea of how our new budget is divided.

More than 20 per cent goes for welfare. Another 48 per cent is allotted for education. The highway program receives another 17 per cent. Almost 5 per cent goes for health, hospitals and special schools. Public safety and the Department of Corrections account for approximately 2 per cent. Seven per cent is spent on all other state services.

Besides new taxes and the state budget . . . your lawmakers had plenty more thorny problems to handle.

Legislative and congressional redistricting . . . brought about by the 1970 census . . . was a major task.

House redistricting was accomplished after heated debate, population shifts forced a number of incumbent legislators into the same districts. The 63rd Texas Legislature will definitely have a new look.
The Senate was so divided over its redistricting that it failed to finish the job during the regular session.

The Texas Constitution forbids the consideration of house and senate redistricting during a special session . . . so reapportionment of the Senate will now be accomplished by a five-member Legislative Redistricting Board.

Congressional redistricting was completed in the four-day special session. The new plan puts Congressmen Graham Purcell and Bob Price in the same Panhandle and Red River area district. Congressman Wright Patman . . . the Dean of the Texas delegation in Washington . . . had his district boundaries re-drawn to include some of Congressman John Dowdy’s area. The rest of Representative Dowdy’s counties went into a newly formed district.

Texas gained one congressional seat--from 23 to 24--under the 1970 census. That new seat plus the paired incumbents let the legislature award new districts . . . without incumbents . . . to Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and Deep East Texas.

However . . . there is talk that the congressional redistricting plan will be challenged in court because . . . some persons feel . . . it short-changed urban areas. The House
REDISTRICTING MEASURE HAS ALREADY BECOME THE TARGET TO TWO LEGAL CHALLENGES—ONE BY A REPUBLICAN MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AND ANOTHER BY THE STATE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Another major accomplishment of the 62nd Texas Legislature was the passage of the state’s first liquor-by-the-drink bill since the days before the Volstead Act.

The issue was a very emotional one . . . but a majority of both chambers felt the people of Texas had spoken most clearly on the question during the last constitutional referendum and the bill was passed.

The bill provides for some sweeping changes in our current liquor laws, and provides for the sale of mixed drinks on a local option basis just as we have had in the past for the sale of beer and wine. Many areas of the state have already been granted mixed drink permits following local approval in the special election held on May 18th.

And . . . as I mentioned earlier . . . the Legislature kept its promise to the people by using the mixed drink situation as a means of raising badly needed revenue. A 10 per cent tax was levied on mixed drinks, ice and mixes sold by bars, restaurants and private clubs, and a substantial licensing fee was placed upon the holders of mixed drink permits.
Much was said during the session about ethics in public office.

A proposed code of ethics was submitted to you voters as a constitutional amendment on May 18th. As you know . . . the measure was defeated because many persons objected to a provision which would have removed the constitutional ceiling on legislative pay and left the determination of salary up to a special commission.

However . . . before the session ended, another ethics measure was enacted into law and will be a guide for conduct of public officials in the years to come.

The question of a legislative pay increase is being returned to the voters. The November, 1972 ballot will include a proposal to raise legislative pay from $4,800 a year to $8,400.

Also on that ballot will be constitutional proposals to extend the terms for governor, lieutenant governor and some other state officials from two to four years and to grant the house speaker and the lieutenant governor annual salaries of $22,500.

The Texas constitution has been amended 201 times since it was first ratified in 1876. Also in November of 1972 you voters will be asked to decide whether the 63rd Texas legislature should
also sit as a constitutional convention to write a modern framework of government for our state and submit it to the people for approval.

The challenges to the 62nd legislature were many, and much meaningful legislation was passed. I am sorry that time does not permit a detailed cataloging of all of the key measures that were enacted.

But before I conclude my remarks . . . I want you to know that strides were made toward a better environment for our state . . . that we took action designed to alleviate some of the rising costs of automobile insurance . . . measures were enacted to make our highways and cities safer places to drive and live.

Progress . . . I believe . . . was made on many fronts.

There is one other matter I would like to discuss with you.

Thousands of words were printed and broadcast about dissension in the 62nd legislature.

Various factions were formed in both the house and senate.
TERMS LIKE THE "SPEAKER'S TEAM," THE "DIRTY THIRTY," "SENATE LIBERALS," AND "CONSERVATIVE COALITION" GAINED WIDE USAGE AND CAPTURED MANY GLARING BLACK HEADLINES.

I WOULD NOT TRY TO KID YOU BY TELLING YOU THAT THIS WAS JUST OVER-EMPHASIS BY THE PRESS, AND THAT EVERYTHING WAS PEACHES AND CREAM DURING THE 62ND LEGISLATURE.

WHENEVER YOU HAVE 181 PERSONS GUIDING ANYTHING . . . YOU ARE BOUND TO HAVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION.

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS WITH THE 62ND LEGISLATURE, THE DEBATE WAS HOT AND SOMETIMES BITTER, TEMPER SOMETIMES FRAYED AND EXPLODED. OFTEN THE BATTLE LINES WERE CLEARLY DRAWN, BUT IN THE END A JOB WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

YES . . . THERE WAS FactionsALISM DURING THE 62ND LEGISLATURE.

WHO CAN SAY WHICH SIDE OR SIDES WERE RIGHT AND WHICH GROUPS WERE WRONG?

YOU THE PEOPLE . . . THE VOTERS OF TEXAS . . . HAVE THE ONLY ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION . . . FOR IT IS YOU WHO ELECT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS IN AUSTIN.
Your feelings ... I am sure ..., will be felt in the primaries and general election of 1972.

But I want to say that I don't believe factionalism or taking strong sides is really all bad. As long as we have democracy we have the right to dissent. I would hate to see any legislature ..., but especially the Texas legislature ..., become a rubber stamp to any program or creed.

As long as we have dissent ..., good or bad ..., I know we still have freedom and democracy ..., and I am proud to be a part of that great system of government.

I thank you.